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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Turkish liaison officer to Baghdad - Hurriyet
US does not apologize; Gul goes to Washington - Aksam
The US: We're sorry - Turkiye
Duel of words with the US - Sabah
The AKP's gamble on referendum - Sabah
Crisis over the Turkomen - Milliyet
Ankara is unhappy about Turkoman representation - Vatan

OPINION MAKERS

Not mistrust; lack of communication - Radikal
Talabani seeks ways for reconciliation - Yeni Safak
Greenpeace act in Izmit - Radikal
Turkey-US to coordinate in Iraq - Zaman
Turkey will remain in northern Iraq as long as PKK
threat exists - Cumhuriyet
Greenpeace prevented the burn - Cumhuriyet
US has acknowledged its mistake - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Turkish-U.S. commission for Suleymaniye detentions: The
Turkish-American commission probing the detention of
Turkish troops in Northern Iraq released a joint
statement early Tuesday. The U.S. side admitted that
the arrests were wrong, but declined to apologize.
'Both sides expressed regret over the incident, and for
the treatment of Turkish soldiers during the detention
period,' the statement read. Both sides have agreed to
take additional measures to improve cooperation and
coordination to prevent a recurrence of similar
incidents. "Sabah" claims that at the commission
meetings on Monday, U.S. officials presented to the
Turks documents proving that Turkish troops in Northern
Iraq had given weapons to the Turkomen. The Turks
responded by showing the Americans photos of U.S.
officials meeting with PKK/KADEK members.

U.S. wants Turkomans disarmed: "Milliyet" writes that
U.S. troops in Northern Iraq will launch an operation
against Turkomen offices in Irbil, Kirkuk, Mosul, and
Suleymaniye because the Turkomen have so far refused to
relinquish their weapons. The Turkomen have told the
Americans that they wished to keep the weapons because
of safety concerns, and agreed to be disarmed only if
KDP and PUK also lay down their arms.

Talabani sends warm message to Ankara: PUK leader
Talabani has encouraged Ankara to open a consulate in
Suleymaniye, according to "Yeni Safak.". Believing
Talabani to be the main figure responsible for the
Suleymaniye incident, Ankara has refused to renew the
PUK leader's Turkish passport. The paper regards the
Talabani offer as a goodwill gesture to mend fences
with Turkey.

Ambassador Pearson expects no delay in aid for Turkey:
Speaking to the press after a farewell visit to
Turkey's Union of Chambers (TOBB) on Monday, U.S.
Ambassador Pearson said that the U.S. would not delay
the \$1 billion grant to Turkey for damages suffered
during the Iraq crisis. Pearson said that the U.S.

side is expecting a Turkish delegation in Washington to discuss final details of the assistance package.

Turkey downsizes military: Turkey's military has decided to reduce its troops by 17 percent, and began dismissing 90,000 soldiers, dailies report. The duration of compulsory military service has been reduced from 18 to 15 months, and from 16 to 12 months for reserve officers.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"The Turkoman Shock for Ankara"

Sedat Ergin evaluates the Iraqi governing council in mass appeal Hurriyet (7/15): "For the Turkoman representative, Ambassador Paul Bremer's choice was a lady from the Turkoman Women's Union as opposed to Ahmed Aga, leader of Iraqi Turkoman Front. This choice is completely against what Ankara had been expecting to see, and it has a special meaning. The US took care to include all political organizations in Iraq, with the notable exception of the Turkoman. The Turkoman community has been given representation in the governing council not through its main political organization, but through a non-governmental organization. The US apparently does not want to involve Turkey in the process of Iraq's political future. . Bremer's final list clearly says to Ankara that Turkey will not be a part of the political dialogue with the US about Iraq. . After all, this is the 'political operation' that comes after the recent military operation against the Turks in Suleymaniye."

"The Global Gangster"

Ozgen Acar argued in the social democrat-intellectual Cumhuriyet (7/15): "It seems the situation for President Bush is getting messier every day. He is now labeled as a 'liar,' and things are not promising for the future, since the Iraq occupation is becoming an increasingly complex issue. . Popular support for Bush has dropped from 90 percent to 58. The Defense Secretary is after supplemental budget, which signals

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that in Iraq the US will have to spend more than it can possibly earn from oil revenues. . The US failed to capture Usama Bin Laden in Afghanistan or Saddam in Iraq. Yet US intelligence managed to capture 11 Turkish soldiers in northern Iraq prior to their assassination attempt against the governor of Kirkuk. It looks like the day is approaching when nobody will take the CIA seriously."

PEARSON